

What is claimed is:

1. A checkout system comprising:
  - a computer;
  - 5 a barcode reader coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on an item; and
    - a security system coupled to the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including
      - 10 a field generator for deactivating a security label on the item; and
        - a sensor for sensing placement of the item within range of the field generator;
          - 15 wherein the security system initiates display of a message instructing an operator to place the item within a deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement.
  2. The checkout system as recited in claim 1, wherein the sensor is operational only during self-service checkout operation.
  3. A checkout system convertible between assisted-service and self-service checkout operation comprising:
    - a computer;
    - 5 a barcode reader coupled to the computer for reading a barcode label on an item; and
      - a security system coupled to the computer and activated by the barcode reader following reading of the barcode label including

10        a field generator for deactivating a security label on the item; and

15        a pop-up housing moveable between a raised position for self-service checkout operation and a recessed position for assisted-service checkout operation;

20        wherein the pop-up housing contains a sensor for sensing placement of the item within a deactivation range of the field generator during self-service checkout operation; and

25        wherein the security system initiates display of a message instructing a self-service customer to place the item within the deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement during self-service checkout operation.

4.        A product security system comprising:

5        a field generator for deactivating a security label on an item; and

10        a pop-up housing moveable between a raised position for self-service checkout operation and a recessed position for assisted-service checkout operation;

15        wherein the pop-up housing contains a sensor for sensing placement of the item within a deactivation range of the field generator during self-service checkout operation; and

20        wherein the security system initiates display of a message instructing a self-service customer to place the item within the deactivation range of the field generator until the sensor senses the placement during self-service checkout operation.

5. A transaction method comprising the steps of:  
reading a barcode label on an item by a barcode reader;  
obtaining barcode information from the barcode reader  
by a computer;

5 activating a field generator for deactivating a  
security label on the item by the computer;  
determining whether the item comes within a  
deactivation range of the field generator by the computer;  
and

10 if the item does not come within the deactivation  
range, initiating display of a message instructing an  
operator to place the item within the deactivation range of  
the field generator.

6. A transaction method comprising the steps of:  
positioning a sensor to identify an item within a  
deactivation range of a field generator;

5 reading a barcode label on the item by a barcode  
reader;  
obtaining barcode information from the barcode reader  
by a computer;  
activating the field generator to deactivate a security  
label on the item by the computer;

10 determining from the sensor whether the item comes  
within the deactivation range of the field generator by the  
computer; and

15 if the item does not come within the deactivation  
range, initiating display of a message instructing an  
operator to place the item within the deactivation range of  
the field generator.